



CAMPUS MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT 2000-01



CAMPUS MINISTRY IS A UNIT OF *Advocacy & Support Services* STUDENT SERVICES

Concordia Campus Ministry **Annual Report 2001-2002**

The following summary is a report of activities carried out by Concordia chaplains, and issues involving the department, during the 2001-02 fiscal year.

Staffing

Concordia Chaplaincy hired a new chaplain in the month of August. **Fr. Raymond Lafontaine** fills the position left vacant by David Eley S.J. upon his leaving the University in June. The position remains a half-time one funded equally by the University and the Catholic Archdiocese of Montreal. Raymond's responsibilities were primarily liturgical and sacramental during the fall term, although he also participated in Orientation with the rest of the Chaplaincy team, our "Retreat in Daily Life", our hosting of the Regional Ecumenical Chaplains Conference, as well as presiding at this year's Fall Convocation. In the winter he facilitated one program, led our Monastic Retreat and was involved in animating our World Youth Day student group. (See details below)

During the fall term **Daryl Lynn Ross** was away on a leave-of absence while she participated in a three month Buddhist retreat. She returned at the end of December and resumed programming in January.

Peter Côté took up the responsibilities of Coordinator of the department on June 1st, 2001 at the end of Daryl's term.

Ellie Hummel (Rev.) continued her various duties and assumed responsibility for the Peer Support Program and Mother Hubbard's Cupboard from Daryl.

Team Activities

As noted above the department participated in Orientation in August by staffing an Information Table at each of the sessions organized through the New Student Program.

Again, as noted above, the team held a "Retreat in Daily Life" from October 30 to November 6. All the chaplains are involved in this. This is an opportunity for students to meet in a group and individually with a chaplain over a period of days in prayer and spiritual direction.

All the chaplains are involved in regular pastoral counselling and spiritual accompaniment with students, seeing students needing emergency assistance through the Student Emergency Food Fund and committee work both within the University and with church and community organizations.

Several chaplains were involved with the Loyola Chapel Community, namely Raymond Lafontaine, Daryl Lynn Ross and Peter Côté. Ellie Hummel provided sacramental services for two Concordia couples getting married and is preparing others. The chaplaincy team was involved in caring for the needs of those affected by a number of student deaths.

Special initiatives: Chaplaincy is involved in an initiative to prepare an orientation package for new faculty on student needs and issues from a Student Services perspective. Our component of this is to exam how religious issues are dealt with in the classroom, and how these issues impact on students of different faith traditions. We are surveying students and will be interviewing several veteran faculty members on their experiences.

Response to September 11 Attacks: The chaplains were involved in a number of activities associated with the September 11 attacks in the United States. In addition to being available to individual students who needed pastoral counselling in connection with this event (a number did) we organized several group activities. We organized a memorial service for the University community on September 14. This service involved the Rector, the Dean of Students, the chaplains and our Muslim and Sikh associates, a student representative from Concordia Hillel and several other student participants. The service was covered widely in the press, as well as nationally on CBC TV news.

We hosted an informal discussion group for students wanting to discuss the implications of September 11 called **“One Common Humanity”**.

The chaplains organized a one-day conference titled **“From Terror to... Tolerance?”** for chaplains in our region on November 19. This is the Regional Ecumenical Chaplains Conference held each year, and hosted on a rotating basis by one of the member institutions: Concordia, McGill, Bishop’s, Ottawa, Carleton, St. Paul’s, Queens and RMC.

Chaplaincy Programmers, Services, Events and Initiatives

The following programs, etc. have been offered or undertaken during the 2001-02 fiscal year. The chaplains responsible or involved are listed at the end of each entry.

Peer Support Programmed: This year 18 students ran the drop-in centre for listening, information and referral, staffed a weekly display table and volunteered at Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard. Topics for on-going training this term included an information session on plagiarism and other academic misconduct (led by Student Advocates) and a discussion on illegal drugs (led by Health Services’ Health Educator). (Ellie Hummel)

Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard: This programmed is run jointly with the students of the Peer Support Centre. This term we have had an average attendance of between 40 and 60. While this is a small decrease from previous years the smaller crowd has allowed us to have more personal conversations and build a stronger community. All in all it has been a very successful term, in large measure thanks to the amazing job done by the student volunteers. (Ellie Hummel)

Lunch Bunch: This is a weekly, facilitated, community-building brown-bag lunch programmed bringing students and chaplains together in an informal setting. (Ellie Hummel and Michelina Bertone)

Reflections: This discussion group met on a weekly basis to discuss issues of spirituality in our daily lives. The regular group formed a strong community. Some students described it as a place

where they can recharge their batteries for the week, and where they know they can relax with friends and talk about the important issues in their lives. (Ellie Hummel)

Buddhist Meditation: Four groups met weekly throughout the semester. Three of these are on the SGW Campus, one at Loyola. Each group has its regular members as well as drop-ins. Each group begins with instruction in meditation geared to the level of the students involved. (Daryl Lynn Ross, three groups and Myokyo, one group)

Compassionate Action and Inter-faith Reflection: This pilot project involved several students from different faith traditions pursuing volunteer activities in the community and reflecting as a group on the experiences. (Daryl Lynn Ross)

Outreach Experience: A programmed of volunteer service and reflection for students involving work with the elderly, the sick, youth and the homeless. (Michelina Bertone)

Towards a Spirituality of Non-violence: An opportunity for students to explore and deepen their understanding of the message of Jesus of Nazareth's message of a non-violent way of being in relationship with self, others and the earth. This weekly group met throughout the semester and involved 8 to 10 students. (Michelina Bertone)

Building Bridges: This is a weekly programmed of structured visits with federal inmates involving dialogue on relevant issues researched by both the students and inmates. Ten students met weekly throughout the semester with 12 to 15 inmates. Several of the students involved are preparing for work in the fields of social work or counseling, or with Correctional Services as parole officers. (Peter Côté)

Habitat for Humanity: This student initiative has been supported by Chaplaincy this term. A group of students are actively involved in establishing a Habitat for Humanity chapter at Concordia. Four students went to Philadelphia during Reading Week with Peter Côté to participate in a building project there. They have been organizing and fundraising for future activities throughout the semester. (Peter Côté)

Buddhist Retreats: Two Buddhist retreats were offered this semester and one Monastic/Christian retreat. Daryl Lynn Ross was responsible for the two Buddhist retreats on January 11-13 and February 19-22. Each was fully subscribed with about 25 participants, mostly students with a few staff and alumni. (Daryl Lynn Ross)

Monastic Retreat: This retreat is held at a Cistercian Monastery each year and immerses students for a brief period in the monastic lifestyle of silence and prayer. Group reflection is included. This year the retreat was held at the Cistercian Abbey of Rougemont from March 1 to 3. (Raymond Lafontaine)

World Youth Day: Approximately 50 Concordia students are preparing to attend the World Youth Day event in Toronto this summer organized by the Catholic Church for youth from around the world. (Michelina Bertone and Raymond Lafontaine)

Video Divina: This three evening programmed involved students viewing and then reflecting prayerfully on the themes of the films. The evenings included a shared meal. Twenty to 25 attended each session. (Raymond Lafontaine)

Catholic Student Community: This group worships at the Loyola Chapel on Sundays at the 11 AM Mass, and weekdays at the 12:05 PM Mass. (Raymond Lafontaine, Dary Lynn Ross, Peter Côté)

Associate Chaplains

Associate Chaplain activities: A number of our volunteer Associate Chaplains were involved in regular activities with students at the University this semester. Imam Salam Elmenyawi led Friday prayers for Muslim students and worked regularly with the MSA. Manjit Singh met weekly with Sikh students at our SGW Chaplaincy Centre in a Friday night discussion group. Myokyo Judith Maclean, our Zen Buddhist associate led a weekly meditation group and shared the facilitation of the semesters Buddhist retreats, both previously mentioned. Rabbis David Merling and Shlomo Mann participated in events for Jewish students, primarily through the auspices of Concordia Hillel.

Other Associate Chaplains active on our team are Rev. Ray Drennan and Dr. T. S. Rukmani.

Our **Multi-faith Convocation Celebration**, held in June 2001, was a great success with participants, families and faculty from several different religious traditions. Our Associate Chaplains are actively involved in this as part of their service to the University community.

Department Name Change

Concordia Campus Ministry is in the process of changing its name to Concordia Multi-faith Chaplaincy. This change will better reflect the reality of Concordia as a diverse, multi-cultural and multi-religious community in a similarly diverse city. It will also reflect the reality of our department, which has grown over the years to include representatives of many of the different religious traditions present within the Concordia community. Our department continues to strengthen our ability to serve and represent this diversity.

The Student Emergency Food Fund 2001-2002

The 2001-02 fiscal year (June 2001 to May 2002) saw significant changes in activity within the Student Emergency Food Fund (SEFF). Revenue was down quite substantially, as were disbursements of vouchers to students. We can only spend what we receive! The revenue total was \$19, 029.17 and disbursements totaled \$17,840.

In terms of revenue the number of donations have decreased from within the University. Greater effort will have to be devoted to this. We need to reach out to new faculty and staff who are not

aware of the history, tradition and role of SEFF within the University community. Many departments still engage in small-scale fundraisers, and a number of unions and alumni associations continue to contribute, as does the Loyola Chapel Community. These areas can be developed further however. Our single largest fundraiser is now the Concordia Used Book Fair, held annually in October. The 2001 edition of this raised \$9,395 for the fund. It has become a huge undertaking involving a large number of staff as volunteers. The coordinator is Susan Hawke from Counselling and Development.

Disbursements continue the downward trend which began two years ago, after the astonishing year of 1999-2000. \$17,840 was distributed to 299 student/visits. This is not an unwelcome trend. We see this as a return to something that we can manage more reasonably. We expect that there will be a leveling off in the years to come.

The Emergency Food Voucher Program remains a significant outreach to the student community on behalf of Multi-faith Chaplaincy, and by extension, through involvement and donations, the entire Concordia community. Many students rely on the program at one time or another for their basic sustenance. In addition to this we are able to help these students through difficult times with our own personal caring presence: the pastoral dimension. We are confident this program is one of the most important aspects allowing some students to remain at Concordia and pursue their dreams.

Attached are statistics for the 2001-02 year, as well as figures going back to 1993 which show the growth in activity in the fund, and what we are calling a welcome return to a reasonable level of activity.

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Concordia Campus Ministry

Food Voucher Disbursement: 1993 to the Present

Calendar Year	Total Disbursed	Student Visits	Average per Visit
1993	\$7,650.	226	\$33.85
1994	\$7,735.	246	\$31.44
1995	\$8,500.	266	\$31.95
Fiscal Year			
1996-97	\$13,210.	365	\$36.19
1997-98	\$23,825.	539	\$44.20
1998-99	\$25,920.	463	\$56.05
1999-2000	\$34,410.	580	\$59.32
2000-2001	\$24,430.	530	\$46.10
2001-2002	\$17,840.	299	\$59.67

The Student Emergency Food Fund 2000-01

Month	Amount	Visits
June	1,130.00	20
July	1,200.00	22
August	1,260.00	30
September	1,950.00	44
October	2,850.00	62
November	2,130.00	45
December	2,090.00	47
January	2,510.00	56
February	2,150.00	49
March	3,040.00	67
April	2,790.00	60
May	1,330.00	28
Total	24,430.00	

Average per Visit 46.10

No. of student/visits: 530

SEFF Disbursements 2000-01.

